

Application No.: 10/659168
Docket No.: AD6929USNA

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REMARKS

[1] Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. In the Final Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 12. The Examiner allowed claims 11 and 13.

[2] Claims 1-6 have been canceled. Claim 7 has been amended as discussed below. New Claims 14 - 18 have been added.

[3] Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the spelling of "fillers". Claims 7 - 10 have been amended to claim range limitations outside of what is exemplified or taught by the references. The Applicant believes that the amendments fully address the Examiner's rejections and place the claims in form for allowance, as discussed below. The amendments do not present new matter, because the old range limits have only been modified to reflect ranges previously claimed further limited by the Examples (see Examples 5 and 6, and Claim 2).

[4] Applicant has amended Claim 11 for clarity and to correct what appears to be an error in the drafting of the claim, where a phrase was repeated. Claim 11 was deemed allowable by the Examiner in the previous action, and recites a composition comprising LCP, present in an amount of at least 65 wt%, and four fillers. The Applicant believes that there are no changes that would negatively impact the allowability of the claim.

[5] New claims 14 through 20 are presented for the first time. These claims represent, in effect, limitations to cancelled Claim 1. The range limitations are not new matter, having been previously claimed or disclosed by the Applicant (see Claim 2, and Examples 5 and 6).

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 7-10, and 12 stand rejected as anticipated by Tsutsumi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,312,866). The Examiner states that the composition described in Tsutsumi comprises 50 wt% of an LCP and can additionally comprise one or more additives.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. While it is correct that the reference describes a polyimide-based composition that can comprise up to 50 wt% of an LCP at the upper limit, this upper limit can only be realized where there is no filler included. The reference teaches a polyimide/LCP composition having an upper limit of 50 wt% of LCP when no other additive is included. Where the reference includes other additives, the LCP necessarily comprises less than 50 wt% of LCP, and less than 40 wt% of the composition if filler is included in the amount

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required by the presently claimed invention (as currently amended). Regardless of the identity or number of fillers present, the reference compositions that include filler necessarily have less than 40 wt% of the LCP material where at least 25 wt% of at least one filler is included. Claims 7-10, 12, and newly presented claims 14 through 18 of the present invention require 45 to 75% by weight of the LCP material, and a total of at least 25% by weight of at least two fillers, based on the total weight of the composition. Claims 11, 13 and 20 comprise no less than 65% by weight of the LCP material and at least four fillers. As such, the reference composition does not overlap the presently claimed composition ranges, and therefore does not anticipate the invention as presently claimed.

[6] In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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